



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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FB15-074

## NOAA Fisheries Seeks Comments on Proposed Changes to Regulations for Snapper-Grouper and Golden Crab in the South Atlantic, and Dolphin and Wahoo in the Atlantic Region

*Comment Period Ends October 29, 2015*

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on a proposed rule that would:

- Revise commercial and recreational sector allocations, and annual catch limits for dolphin in the South Atlantic. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin would change from 92.46% to 90% and the annual catch limit would change from 14,187,845 to 13,810,361 pounds whole weight. The commercial sector allocation for dolphin would increase from 7.54% to 10% and the commercial annual catch limit would change from 1,157,001 to 1,534,485 pounds whole weight.
- Revise the accountability measures for black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, greater amberjack, red porgy, gag, golden tilefish, red grouper, snowy grouper, gray triggerfish, hogfish, scamp, Atlantic spadefish, bar jack, the other snappers complex, the other jacks complex, the other shallow-water grouper complex, the other porgies complex; wreckfish (recreational), and golden crab (commercial).
- Accountability measures are management controls to prevent annual catch limits from being exceeded and to correct overages of the catch limits if they do occur. Accountability measures include in-season closures, and post-season paybacks, such as reducing the length of the next fishing season or reducing the annual catch limit in the next fishing season. See the Frequently Asked Questions for more detailed information on accountability measures for the commercial and recreational sectors.

The proposed rule will publish on September 29, 2015, with a 30-day comment period starting on September 29, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.

### Request for Comments

Comments on the proposed rule must be received no later than **October 29, 2015**, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries. See the Addresses section for information on where and how to submit comments.

### Addresses

Electronic or hardcopies of the proposed rule may be obtained from:

- The NOAA Fisheries Web site:
- [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_a/tl/2014/am\\_dolphin\\_allocation/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_a/tl/2014/am_dolphin_allocation/index.html).

You may submit comments by the following methods:

Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to

[www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0181](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0181), click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- Mail: Mary Janine Vara  
NOAA Fisheries  
Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
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All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

**More Information**

For more information on the proposed rule for the Generic Accountability Measures and Dolphin Allocation

Amendment, please follow this link to the Frequently Asked Questions:

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/2014/am\\_dolphin\\_allocation/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/2014/am_dolphin_allocation/index.html).